



United States District Court

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Middle District of Florida

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MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA TO PARTICIPATE IN 2002 FEDERAL COURTS'

NATIONAL OUTREACH INITIATIVE

Tampa, November 13, 2002. The United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida is pleased to announce their participation in the **2002 Federal Courts' National Outreach Initiative "Open Doors to Federal Courts."**

The judiciary's outreach program "Open Doors to Federal Courts" is an umbrella for national and local initiatives that link courts to their communities through an annual event at federal courthouses across the nation. The interactive learning experience brings teachers, high school seniors, bar associations, and the media into courthouses throughout the country to interact with federal judges and court staff. This event underscores that jury service is an adult privilege and responsibility. The 2002 theme is: **JURY SERVICE: A RITE OF PASSAGE.**

This year the event will be held nationwide on Wednesday, November 13th. The host Judge for the Middle District of Florida, Tampa Division, is the Honorable James S. Moody, Jr. Also,

participating will be Judge Susan C. Bucklew, Judge Richard A. Lazzara and Magistrate Judge Mary S. Scriven. Jefferson High School will be the host school this year and the students will go through the jury process from the summons and questionnaire stage in the classroom. The courthouse program will include voir dire, testimony (from an abbreviated mock trial provided by the Office of Public Affairs), deliberations, verdict and debriefing with the host judges and volunteer attorneys.

The lesson plan for teachers is posted on the federal courts' web site for teachers www.uscourts.gov Educational Outreach. The District Court will have an orientation at the courthouse for teachers prior to the event to review logistics, and to match teachers with volunteer lawyers who will help prepare students for the program. This is an exciting initiative by the federal judiciary with the academic community. The Middle District of Florida hopes that all involved will have a great sense of duty, a look at jury service as a privilege and responsibility, and that the young people will see Jury Service as a rite of passage.

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